ductions is less than 30% of the book profit, the total income of the company shall be deemed to be 30% of the book profit and shall be charged to tax accordingly. Companies engaged in the power and infrastructure sectors will, however, be exempted from the levy of Minimum Alternate Tax.

Exporters including in Dubious Activities

*263. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dubious activities of some of the exporters have come to light of Government, like repatriation of foreign exchange by over-invoicing, manipulation of documents to show higher quantity of exports, purchase of export goods from non-existent companies/supporting manufacturers, misdeclaration of description of export goods, enhancement of weight, bogus exports etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the country has been duped and put to financial loss;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons involved in those dubious activities; and

(e) how Government propose to check all such uncalled for activities of the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) During the last three years, a number of cases involving various types of contravention of export promotion schemes as also Customs law concerning exports have been detected by the Customs authorities. Adjudications have been completed in 361 cases where Rs. 101 crores of Customs duty which was sought to be evaded was realised as also denial of Rs. 32.88 crores of excess drawback claims. Fines amounting to Rs. 8.69 crores and penalties of Rs. 5.76 crores have been imposed. 43 persons have been arrested out of whom 9 persons have been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act.

In other cases, adjudication proceedings are in progress. The amount involved would be known only after the adjudication proceedings are completed.

Customs formations have been directed to keep a close vigil over clearances made under various export promotion schemes. The procedure and the system of monitoring have been tightened to check the misuse of these schemes.

Establishment of Airports in M.P., Assam, Bihar and Rajasthan

*264. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish more airports in M.P., Assam, Bihar and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Apart from the development of an airport at Ajmer, in Rajasthan, there is no proposal to establish any other airport. However, the existing airports in these states are being upgraded wherever necessary.

New Television Channel for Educational Purposes

*265. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question No. 163 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1996, and State:

(a) whether Government have worked out details to start the new channel for educational purposes to popularise distance education;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider to allot a channel to some private agency for this purpose; and